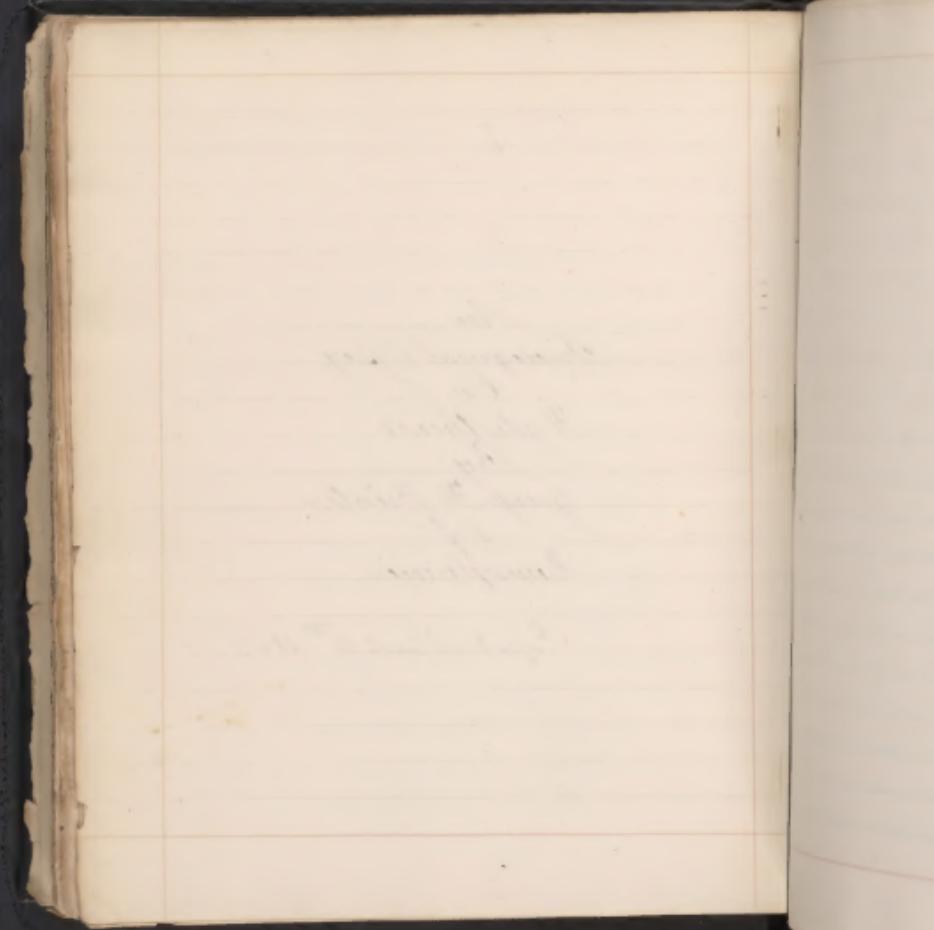


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An
Inaugural Essay
On
Hydrotherapy
By
George H. Bentinck
of
Pennsylvania.

Copied March 4th 1823





Hysto
natural collection
is in the cellular
body has received
a tropy. The dis
eases according
in which the flu
or assistance, or does
not come, before
within the cavity
of the body, when
the disease is
the chest. To this
are my observations
chiefly directed
atology of the dis
ease to the other,
because Dropy is go
ing continued disease
so becomes much as
that face. At the same

Hydrothorax

A putridal collection of serum or watery fluid in the cellular membrane or cavities of the body, has received the general appellation of dropsy. The disease has received different names, according to the different situation in which the fluid is placed: thus we have Ascarica, or dropsy of the cellular membrane. Soiter, when the collection takes place within the cavity of the abdomen, and Hydrothorax, when the collection takes place within the chest. To the last form of the disease, my observations in the following pages are chiefly directed. I say chiefly because, the pathology of this disease is equally applicable to the other forms of dropsy. Remote cause. Drosopy is generally the effect of long continued diseases, by which the system becomes much disordered, as Soiter. intermittent fever. Asthma; Pulmonary consumption.

tion. It also arises
out of the
disease of the
liver. The liver
being the stomach
of the body, the general
area of the disease
and respecting
it is a fact well
known to
physicians, that
from the exhalation
and excretion of
fluid by evaporation
of these canisters,
of the body. This
inconvenience, to
the accumulation of
fluid, another
caused by immersion
in water of these
fluid after it

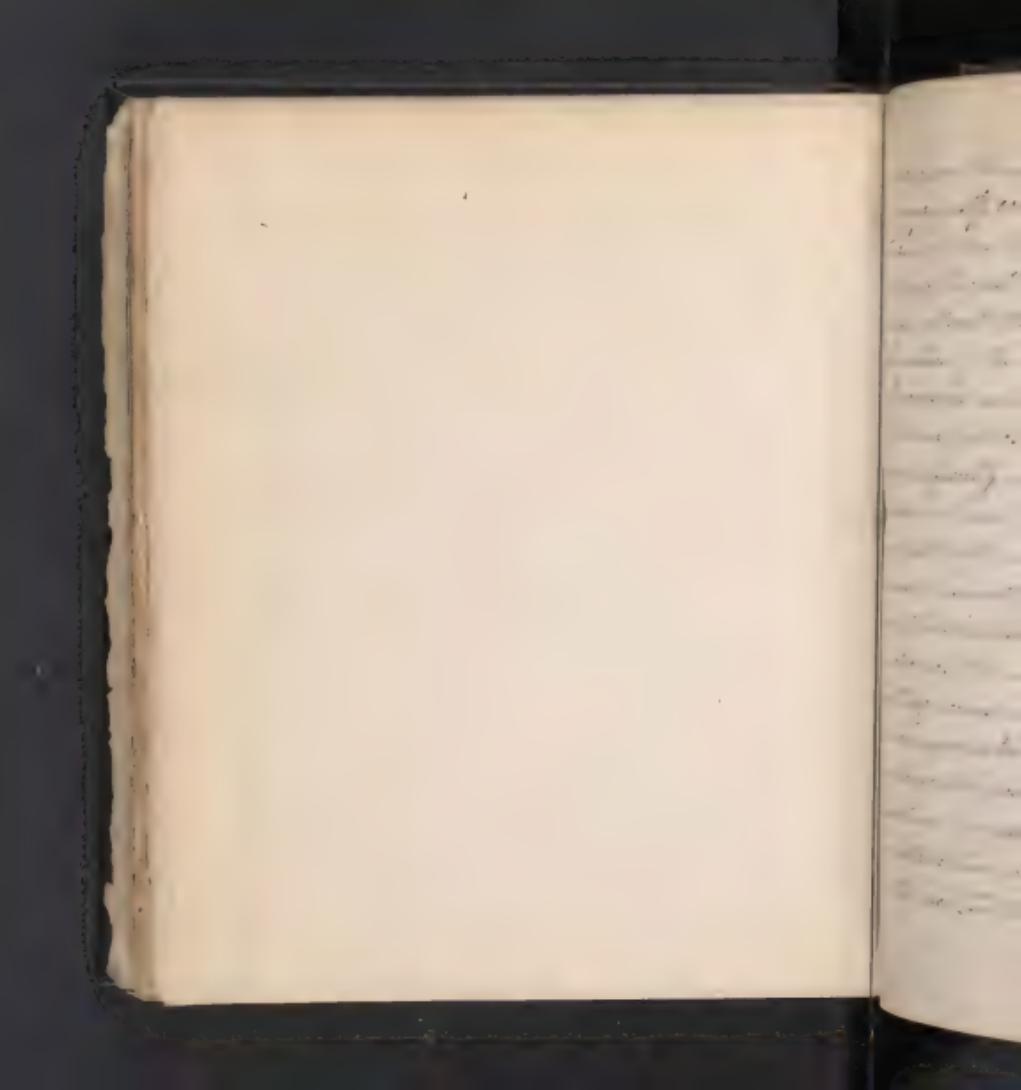
tion. It also arises from a diseased state of the putrid viscera of the body, as the liver, spleen and lungs. The free use of spirituous liquors, by debilitating the stomach and through the medium of it, the general system is frequently a remote cause of this disease. Much controversy has existed respecting the proximate cause of hæmopy. It is, a fact well known to Physiologists and Anatomists, that a fluid is continually exuding from the exhalent vesicles into all the cavities and interstices of the human body. This fluid by constantly moistening the surfaces of these cavities, facilitates the various motions of the body. But in order to obviate any inconvenience, that must arise from the accumulation and stagnation of such fluids, another set of vesicles called absorbents open by innumerable mouths on the surface of these cavities, and convey this fluid, after it has performed its office

to the blood. It
is however better
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but is it the
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held it to be

to the blood. Thus in health a due equilibrium is preserved between these two sets of vessels. This fact being established, we must consequently look to the loss of equilibrium, between the exhalents and absorbents, as the cause of the disease. All accumulation therefore is disease, but is it the exhalents or absorbents that are in fault? some contend that it is owing to an excess of venous effusion, others to a decay in the powers of absorption. By the Practitioners of our own Country, it is generally attributed to an increased exhalation. But they all agree that our remedies should be directed to the absorbents. The English writers almost without an exception have considered leprosy to be dependent on an antiphlogistic diathesis or what they have denominated a laxity of the system. Those of our own Country, on the contrary have almost as universally held it to be a disease of high action.

most probably it is generally dependent on increased action of the Vascular system & diminished action of the Absorbents - since like a balance these two systems are usually in opposition to each other

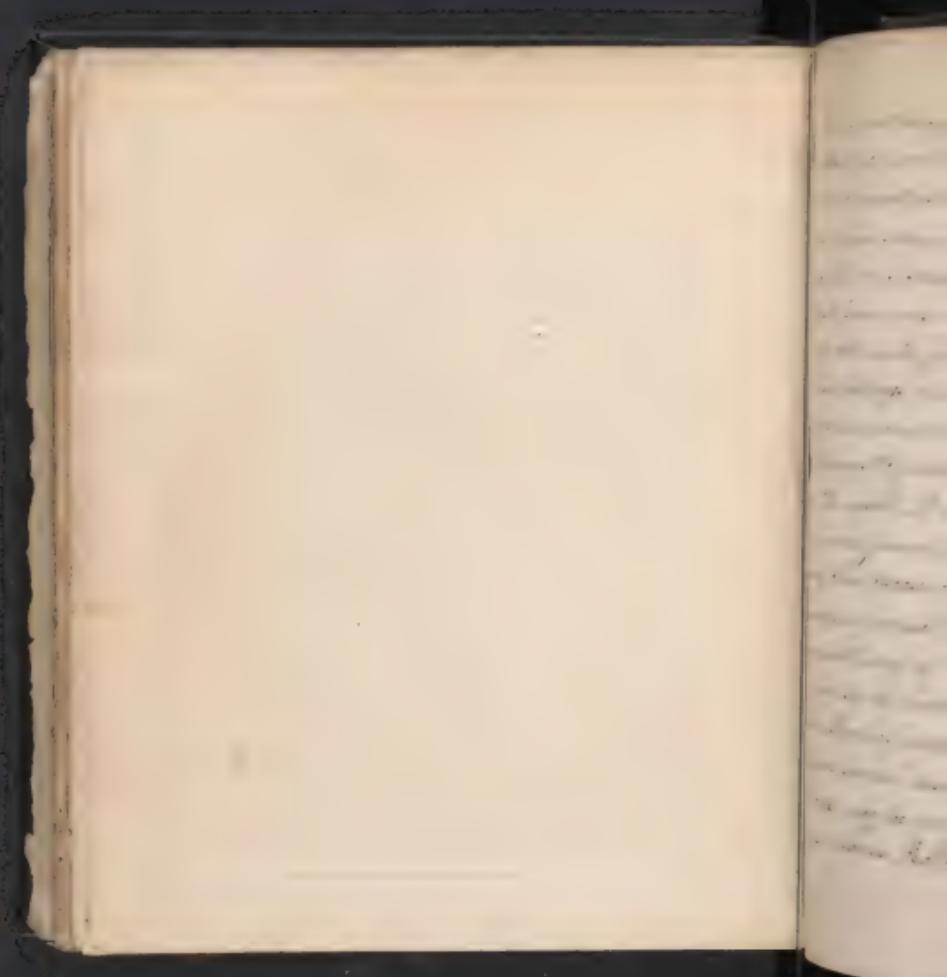
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the distinction of not from the
rest I waited till a suitable time but
it was over in a short while when the
old Dr. Burchell's prediction of coming trouble
had come true in that a very large
and violent storm came up at the lake. I had
been told that a bad one was coming so I made
my way to the shore to see what was the matter
and found that many houses had been
damaged and some action taken to repair them by
water. It is said the lake is about half
empty now from water action the water is
about half full. It is always here by
water. I have said that I do not like
the river much and that I am not
a great fan of it but when I go
there I am not able to help myself
but enjoy myself by sitting in the boat
and looking at the water. I have said
that a native nation is going to come



and in the vicinity of the action,
we may justly conclude that it is worth of
that which we have been told that
many if not most people passing over the
area would be satisfied by means of
the action of the horses a sense of security
and some measure of safety would
be to a large extent attained by
the vicinity of the action remaining
as it does. The same is true of those
who are not subject to the action of the
action of the horses immediately or
immediately so as not to be subject to
such a hazard when the action is
on horseback, but when such a person
comes from a place where he has
been subject to the action of the
horses, he can take the necessary
precautions than if he did not.



seen with the exception of those who
are one of the slaves of the slave and
are known and worthy to be set at
a distance where it is difficult for
them to be seen. Some are very ad-
dicted with the destruction of these
men who are also known to be
weakly, easily to die or to become ill. The
first specimen however should not be
taken from the mouth and nose and when the
patient does not say enough is flushed
the mouth with many sponges. Noting
that he does not say exactly enough until
you get a good introduction to the disease.
Then as the next thing, a
little oil is applied and if that will
not satisfy of course the hand is soothed,
soothed, massaged, and gently in tampering
in some case the patient is troubled
with violent palpitations of the heart.



the same time, a considerable
part of which is to become a part of
the new state, a portion of it is to
be given to another state, and
the rest is to be held in common.
With all its inhabitants to be sent
a colony is evidently given an equal
share of the public property, nothing
more to be done, & the government left
to the right. This is an evident fact
to me, and I am sure that the
several states of the Union, and even the
newly formed will distinctly see it, and
will have to be satisfied with it.

The expense and the cost of maintaining
a number of men in a state, & in
the several states with which the Union
will be very considerable, such as Virgi-
nia, Georgia, &c., &c. &c. &c.

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a heat and a great bloating; and some
or the abstraction of the Stomach. From thence
it may be distinguished by a careful exam-
ination of the history of the case. Two
of yesterdays have been considered at the
economic & medical days, by striking
on the sternum, when the patient is in
an erect posture, fluctuation is always
united evident. Biobel has also informed
us that by placing the patient in a recum-
berly posture and then pressing firmly on
the abdomen, you aggravate all the symptoms
of the disease. A physician is for the most
part difficult and unsuccessuful; because
say that this disease seldom admits of a
cure or even of an alleviation from its
malady. The patient may be from the
gradual emaciation of his system; or he
may be alternately swooning and convulsed.
and if, which is very rare, given one dose

the first
of the
month
of the
year. I
have
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to another. This circumstance would render
Pustules extremely violent in exciting
Inflammation, in softening the membrane
terminations of the skin. Inflammation slow
softens the water contained in and about the vessels
of the humor, that is, it engorges the tissue, it engorges
the vessels, and can result in proportion to the
quantity of water present. Treatment -

When called to a patient who comes under
Hypertension, our first step is the reduction
of arterial action; we do this by cooling,
which ought to be effected without at
the same time in ^{reducing} the resistance
of the blood would seem to indicate that cooling
is an excellent auxiliary to the wine. They
should be applied to the neck, either
using cold & moist and topical applications,
or from some reservoir to blisters. They should
be large enough to cover the whole side,
and they should be kept screwing

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in one time of three months full of
certain starting pains we then have reason
to suspect & I then the intake of Potash
is to be considered in the commencement.
I will alone or in combination has been
found very service in this Disease. some
physicians consider however as violent as
to the mode in which it should be adminis-
tered & others suppose if given in such
large doses that enters the Stomach & Liver
is liable to prove really violent.

Some in the contrary are I believe the
say it is to make vomiting and retching
as violent at night with continue. You
are to attempt to settle this controversy
as soon as these several men would be
able. By looking this wayways. Dr.
Shortmen informs, that the point in
the late. is not whether one has or has not
a sore woful in surpoy, but whether

1

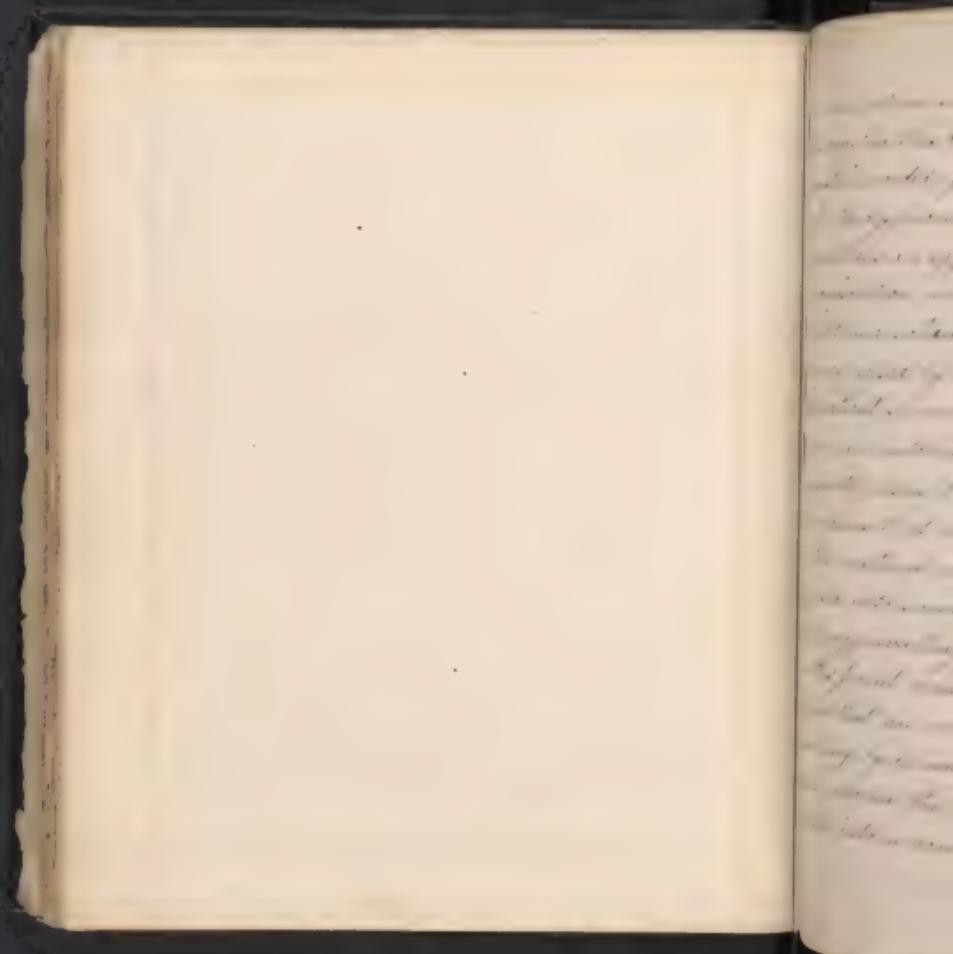
There are many of these still in these cases
and attained by securing the medicine
to the blood, or rather separating from
the own substance, and it appears to me
that just in time in its recovery sent
me to him another mercury, so the same
as I have commanded in case of such
violent moving observed the violent
action of the stomach. He made of
it, taking it in combination with辰砂:
in the morning twelve grains of辰砂
and 3 of Spurilla. The mouth becoming
affected by this combination, is an auspi-
cious circumstance: as I'm distinguishing
symptoms even sensible after a fifty-
dissolution which is a curious fact, since
mercury alone, though applied to a
salivation, does not produce the same
effect. & when objected to this com-
bination, supposing that it would



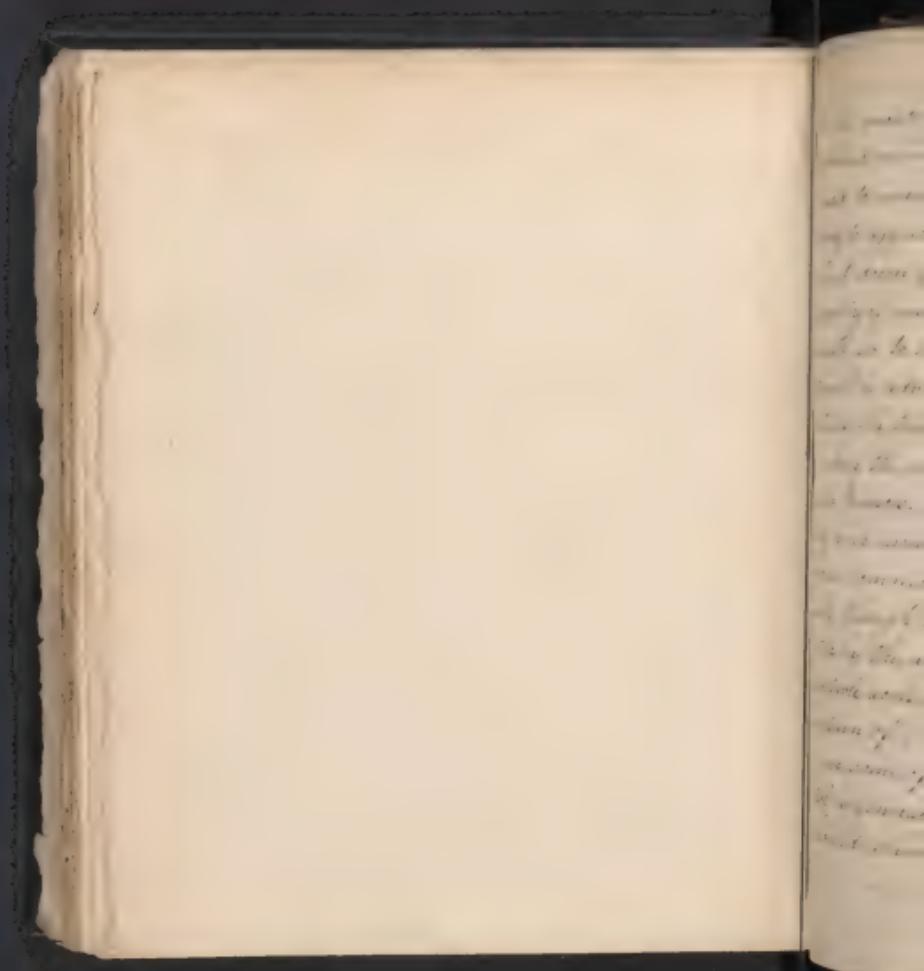
the Syrup, which is usually in
troduced with the Tincture or if this
solution is too weak that it may be
more easily given it is best to mix only
one grain of the tincture with
four drams of water and add to
this one drachm of the Syrup and
then to add the rest of the tincture
and to mix them well. This
is a very good receipt for a small
quantity of the medicine. It is not
nearly so violent by it. From subsequent
use of this medicine in this disease the
substances have not been verified though
it is said to be sometimes mixed with Syrup. However
I believe it is now generally introduced
as a precious remedy in this disease. This
medicine is administered in three different
substances. Tincture, essence and inci-
pient. If it is weak in substance the
one to begin with is 192. if the saturated

and a red
tassel to
the top of
the head.
The men
are all
in white
clothing
and the
men have
red
tassels
hanging
from their
heads.

Tincture is used the dose is 5 or 6 drachms in the infusion. The dose is a table-spoon full. The dose should be gradually increased, slowly at first till it is steady; if the medicine produces violent purging and irritation of the fauces with a sort of disturbance in the urine it should be withheld. Dr. Willing says that digitalis should only be given when the patient is convalescent and in this condition it is better not to tell the patient of him. From a number of experiments instituted by Dr. Penruddick he has found of containing the most powerful tincture he arrived to the conclusion that a combination of the following substances was the most active, particularly in Hydrocephalus. Take of the sheet Scutellaria 12 gr. Sunct. roots of Ruta 2 gr. Tincture of Juniper 12 gr. and the 44 mil. of Galichium 1 each $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. and a half of Balsam 1 gr. The dose of



a commination is to blow a few times during
the day. The following rule may be
and is resorted to, for it increases the facility
and the syphuncle is soon disengaged
and soon disappears without trouble.
The above plan, in which the patient must
lie still in a comfortable state, will have
success, so far as some patients are concerned,
but the patient will be tortured in his bed
over an indolent disease, and will soon
despairfully give up. It was thought by those
who invented it, instead of suspending it
in the rectal emunctories, it was
placed into some of the canals of the
body, especially the rectum. I never
in this point remarks. Some frequently
said that an active obstipation, now
subsiding, by diminishing the quantity of
wine, allowed the secretions of the rectum
to fall into a contracted state, so



that the quantity of urine voided, were still farther diminished, and as I judged tended to increase the effusion, and thereby to aggravate the disease. He therefore lays it down as a general rule, when the quantity of water discharged is equal or nearly so to the quantity taken in, it will be advantageous to continue the diuretic. In the support of his opinion, we have the evidence of Sir George Baker, of Sir Francis Nitman, who have declared, they have cured hæmorrhage by these means alone. Common water answers very well, though it may be rendered more active by the addition of some of the vegetable acids. The next object is to prevent a return of the disease, for this purpose we use some of the tonics. the bark and steel is generally given. If the disease should show a tendency to a

starch, w
dried, c
potash a
is recom
Lat. In
it should
is concealed
but not s
yellow eggs
at little
frequently

return, we should recommence with the diuretics, and combine the carbonate of potash with some of the bitter tonics as recommended by Sir John Pringle.
Diet. In the feeble form of the disease it should be low; but when the patient is convalescing, it should be nourishing but not stimulating, such articles as oysters, eggs, jellies, &c. The patient should eat little at a time, but much more frequently than the common meals.

